

Washington - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, a Member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, issued the following statement on the passage of the Improving Head Start Act of 2007, which passed the House of Representatives with broad bi-partisan support by a vote of 365-48. Congresswoman Sánchez co-sponsored the act, which improves and reauthorizes the Head Start early childhood development and education program.

“Head Start has helped generations of deserving children get ready for a lifetime of learning. My family has seen first-hand how Head Start can level the playing field for working class children who don't have all the benefits that more advantaged homes can provide.

“After being sidelined by the last two Congresses, our bill will build on the legacy of success and make Head Start even better. We are improving classroom quality by raising the qualifications of teachers and supporting their professional development. Our bill updates Head Start by using the latest and best science on early childhood brain development to strengthen the focus on school readiness.

“Our bill is backing up these investments with strong accountability measures to make sure the funds are used well.

“Head Start is about helping less fortunate kids build better lives. By renewing Head Start, we're making an investment in the lives of our children and the health of our communities.”